

Vital Events

Kansas vital events (resident live births, deaths, stillbirths, abortions, and occurrence marriages and marriage dissolutions) decreased 2.4 percent from 99,729 in 1995 to 97,363 in 2004. ([Tables 1](#) and [25](#))

Between 1995 and 2004, some large changes in vital events were a 25.6 percent decrease in the divorce and annulment rate and a 25.9 percent increase in the out-of-wedlock birth ratio. ([Table 1](#))

The number of out-of-wedlock births to Kansas residents reached a record high in 2004 at 12,897. This represented 32.6 percent of all Kansas resident births, which is the highest proportion ever reported. ([Table 1](#))

The live birth rate in 2004 (14.5) was identical to the 1995 rate. The rate of 14.2 in 1996 was the lowest on record, dating from 1935. The death rate decreased 6.5 percent, from 9.3 in 1995 to 8.7 in 2004. ([Table 1](#), [Figure 3](#))

Stillbirth, perinatal and neonatal death rates decreased from 1995 to 2004, with percentage decreases of 4.1, 2.4, and 2.2, respectively. Infant death rates rose by 4.3 percent and the hebdomadal death rate (3.6) was identical in 1995 and 2004. ([Table 1](#), [Figure 3](#))

Between 1995 and 2004, both marriages and marriage dissolution (divorces and annulments) rates continued their general downward trend.* The marriage rate (7.0) decreased 14.6 percent from the 1995 rate of 8.2. The marriage dissolution rate dropped from 4.3 in 1994 to 3.2 in 2004. ([Table 1](#))

Over half (10,322) of the marriages in 2004 were first marriages for both the bride and groom. ([Figure 2](#))

***Note:** The tabulation of divorce statistics is impacted by the completeness of reporting by District Courts in Kansas. Despite efforts to assure 100 percent reporting compliance, it has been determined by the Center for Health and Environmental Statistics that not all divorce and annulment certificates have been filed with the Center. The Center is unable to estimate how incomplete the reporting is. Users of marriage dissolution data should exercise caution before making any conclusions based on these data. The Center is obligated to report the data it collects, but recommends that any marriage dissolution data findings be accompanied by a statement that totals may not represent 100 percent of this vital event due to under-reporting.